

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 034231

64  
ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JNACH:JES

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA/PAB:RPECK

S/S:JMEALUM

----- 024338

O 140213Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 034231

TOSEC 252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PAK

SUBJECT: KASHMIR--SHEIKH ABDULLAH RETURN TO POWER LIKELY

PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. EMBASSY DELHI REPORTS THAT IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY KASHMIRI LEADER SHEIKH ABDULLAH WILL RETURN TO POWER IN KASHMIR FEBRUARY 24. WHILE NO TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND MRS. GANDHI HAS BEEN RELEASED, AND THERE ARE APPARENTLY SOME MINOR DETAILS LEFT TO IRON OUT, EMBASSY DELHI NOW BELIEVES AGREEMENT WILL GO THROUGH AND MRS. GANDHI WILL PROBABLY MAKE A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK.

2. ABDULLAH SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN VERY LITTLE EXCEPT FOR A GOI ASSURANCE NOT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF KASHMIR. THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 034231

SHEIKH WILL NOT JOIN THE CONGRESS PARTY AND MAY BE ABLE TO

USE THE URDU TITLE FOR PRIME MINISTER, BUT OTHERWISE THERE  
WON'T BE MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS POSITION AND THAT OF  
THE OUTGOING CONGRESS PARTY CHIEF MINISTER OF KASHMIR.

-  
3. THE SHEIK'S RETURN MEANS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 22  
YEARS KASHMIR WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER  
OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY. ABDULLAH NOW PUBLICLY SAYS THAT  
THE STATE'S ACCESSION TO INDIA IS FINAL.

4. EMBASSY DELHI THINKS THAT CONSTITUTIONALLY, THE AGREEMENT  
DOES NOT APPEAR TO CHANGE KASHMIR'S STATUS, EITHER  
WITHIN INDIA OR INTERNALLY WITHIN THE STATE, AND THUS DOES  
NOT SEEM TO RUN COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT,  
WHICH REQUIRES BOTH SIDES NOT TO TAKE UNILATERAL  
ACTION TO ALTER THE SITUATION "PENDING THE FINAL SETTLEMENT".  
IF BHUTTO GOES THROUGH WITH HIS CALL FOR A STRIKE, DELHI  
BELIEVES THERE MAY BE SOME MINOR DISTURBANCES IN KASHMIR FOR  
A BRIEF PERIOD. IF, AS A RESULT OF THE GANDHI-ABDULLAH  
AGREEMENT, PAKISTAN HALTS NEGOTIATIONS FOR NORMALIZATION  
OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS, THE INDIANS CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE  
THE INTERRUPTION WILL ONLY BE TEMPORARY. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADERS, KASHMIR, TOSEC 252  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE034231  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JNACH:JES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750053-0681  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750240/aaaabkde.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KASHMIR--SHEIKH ABDULLAH RETURN TO POWER LIKELY PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IN, PK, (ABDULLAH, SHEIKH)  
**To:** JERUSALEM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006